

RFK to Be

Washington

Times Herald

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1968

Buried in

Post

Index

84 Pages
4 Sections

Amusements	C 7	Financial	D 8
City Life	B 1	Gardens	C10
Classified	C11	Movie Guide	C10
Comics	B10	Obituaries	B 8
Editorials	A24	Sports	D 1
Events	B 9	TV-Radio	D12
Fed. Diary	A26	Women's	C 1

Phone 223-6000 Circulation 223-6100
Classified 223-6200

10 c

Arlington

Funeral Saturday; Body Flown Back For N.Y. Service

Robert Kennedy: His Pursuit of Life—A12-13

By Chalmers M. Roberts

Washington Post Staff Writer

Robert Francis Kennedy will be buried Saturday in Arlington National Cemetery close to the grave of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The body of the 42-year-old Senator who died early Thursday of an assassin's bullet was flown yesterday from Los Angeles to New York on a White House jet. Aboard the plane were his widow, three of his ten children and the widows of two others who also fell before assassins, Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sen. Kennedy's body will lie in state today in St. Patrick's Cathedral on New York's Fifth Avenue. The mahogany casket, picked yesterday by his only surviving brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, will lie on a catafalque in the middle of the cathedral's central aisle.

The cathedral will be open today from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and perhaps later to accommodate mourners. A private service was scheduled for last night for the family and close friends.

A Requiem High Mass will be sung on Saturday at 10 a.m., a service his fellow Senators and other public officials, probably including President Johnson, will attend.

The casket will be placed on a train leaving New York at 12:30 and arriving in Washington at 4:30 p.m. Details for the Arlington burial were being worked out yesterday.

Sen. Kennedy died at 1:44 a.m. PDT (4:44 a.m. EDT) yesterday at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles without regaining consciousness. He had been struck down by three bullets 25 hours earlier and the bullet that lodged in his brain proved fatal. Most of it had been extracted in a delicate three-hour and 40-minute operation.

Press Secretary Breaks News

A drawn and weary Frank Mankiewicz, the Senator's press secretary, broke the news at a 2 a.m. meeting with reporters. He said:

"I have a short announcement to read which I will read at this time:

"Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at 1:44 a.m. today, June 6, 1968.

"With Sen. Kennedy at the time of his death were his wife, Ethel; his sisters, Mrs. Stephen Smith and Patricia Lawford; brother-in-law Stephen Smith and Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

"He was 42 years old."

Mankiewicz later reported that brother Edward M. Kennedy also was present.

When Mankiewicz was asked the specific cause of

death, he looked up numbly and replied: "The gunfire attack." He said that "the bullet that went into the head near the right ear" was the fatal shot.

"It was not a question of his sinking," Mankiewicz explained, "but of not rising. He needed a rally and steady improvement in his condition, and that did not develop."

Early today President Johnson said of the Senator's death: "This is a time of tragedy and loss. During his life, he knew far more than his share of personal tragedy. Yet he never abandoned his faith in America."

Mr. Johnson proclaimed Sunday to be a national day of mourning. Vice President Humphrey, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, whom Kennedy had just defeated in the California Democratic primary, and a host of other American and world leaders issued statements of sympathy and expressions of personal loss.

Flags were lowered to half staff on all American buildings by presidential order and on other buildings by order of governors and mayors.

Before the Senator's body left the steel-framed bed in the intensive care unit of the hospital a six-hour autopsy was performed both to satisfy California legal requirements and to avoid any repetition of the controversy over the death on Nov. 22, 1963, of President Kennedy in Dallas.

The coroner's autopsy report said Sen. Kennedy's death was due to "a gunshot wound of the right mastoid penetrating the brain."

Suspect's Bond Is Revoked

The man charged with the shooting, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, was in Los Angeles County jail, his \$250,000 bond revoked. Authorities announced that a county grand jury would consider a murder indictment against him.

After the autopsy, the body was placed in the casket and the casket in a blue-gray hearse for a 30-minute ride to the Los Angeles airport. The Senator's widow and his brother rode in the front seat.

Nearly 5000 persons stood outside the hospital and at least as many were at the airport. Many were weeping. Flowers were tossed at the passing motorcade and some placed near the ramp leading into the plane.

An airport lift truck raised the casket, covered with a purple cloth, to the front door of the jet. Mrs. Kennedy, brother Edward and three of the Kennedy children rode to the doorway with the casket.

Other members of the family, friends and aides entered through the plane's rear door with Mrs. John F. Kennedy leading the way.

Among those aboard the plane, 71 in all, were Roosevelt Grier, the 300-pound Los Angeles Rams tackle, and Rafer Johnson, the former Olympic decathlon star, who had been at Sen. Kennedy's side at the moment the assassin fired.

The three children aboard were the Senator's eldest: Kathleen, 17, Joseph 16, and Robert, 14.

Sen. Kennedy served in the Navy during the war on a ship named for his brother. He is eligible for burial in Arlington as an honorably discharged veteran who has "also served in high position in the Federal Government."

Complete Report: Pages A4-A14; C1-C3.



Associated Press

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy comforts Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy as the body of her husband is about to be put aboard an

Air Force jet at Los Angeles. In checkered coat is one of Robert Kennedy's daughters, 17-year-old Kathleen.